GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2874
ANSWERED ON:19.03.2007
AUTONOMOUS BODY FOR PHARMACEUTICALS
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is contemplating to set up a single, central,licensing autonomous body for Pharmaceuticals;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the stage at which the matter stands presently; and

(d) the progress made, if any, thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARTLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE)

(a) to (d): The Task Force constituted by the Government under the Chairmanship of Dr. Pronab Sen, Principal Advisor, Planning Commission to explore options other than price control for achieving the objective of making available life saving drugs at reasonable prices has recommended inter alia, that in the long run both the functions of drug regulations and price control should be performed by the same agency and there should be an integrated regulatory system.Keeping the above in view, it has inter-alia been proposed in the draft National Pharmaceutical Policy, 2006 that as an immediate step an independent and autonomous Central Drug Authority would be constituted in place of the present Central Drug Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO). tn the long run the proposal of merger of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) and the Central Drug Authority would be examined to form a National Authority on Drugs and Therapeutics (NADT) which will be an integrated Regulatory Authority in the country.This Policy was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the proposal in its meeting held on 11-1-2007 and has referred the matter to a Group of Ministers (GOM). A GOM has since been constituted.